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**REQUEST
FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**Address to:
Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, DC 20231

Application Number	09/623865
Filing Date	November 8, 2000
First Named Inventor	Otto Plank
Group Art Unit	3724
Examiner Name	Jermie Cozart
Attorney Docket No.	30051/32015/US

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114a. ☐ Previously submittedi. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR 1.116 previously filed on _____
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____iii. ☐ Other _____b. ☒ Enclosedi. ☒ Amendment/Replyii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)iv. ☐ Other _____**2. Miscellaneous**a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)b. ☐ Other _____**3. Fees** The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17 (e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.a. ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

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ii. ☒ One Month Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)01 FC:179
02 FC:115740.00 OP
110.00 OPiii. ☐ Other _____b. ☒ Check in the amount of \$ 850.00 enclosedc. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Jeremy R. Kriegel	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	39,257
Signature	<i>Jeremy R. Kriegel</i>	Date	May 31, 2002

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV110798242US, in an envelope addressed to: Box RCE, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on the date shown below.

Dated: May 31, 2002

Signature: *Richard Zimmerman* (Richard Zimmerman)



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Plank)
APPLICATION NO.: 09/623,865)
FILED: November 8, 2000)
FOR: METHOD FOR PRODUCING A)
RIM HOLE)
(This Response accompanies a Request)
for Continued Examination))

Examiner: Jermie Cozart
Group Art Unit: 3726

30051/32015
PATENT

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VART

RESPONSE

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Response is to the Office Action mailed January 31, 2002, which was made final. A check in the amount of \$850.00, including \$110.00 for a one month extension of time, to and including May 31, 2002 and \$740.00 in fees for the filing of a Request for Continued Examination, is enclosed. In the event any additional fees are necessary, kindly charge the cost thereof to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855. This Response is intended as a submission under 37 C.F.R. 1.114(c).

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35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner continues to reject claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ashby et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,306,511 ("Ashby"). While Ashby discloses breaking out a portion 88 of the rear work piece 84 (see FIGs. 5, 6, 10 and 11) as a punch end part 86 of the punch 54 is driven therethrough. Ashby, however, does not teach breaking out an additional piece of material of the rear plate shaped work piece in a further

step of the single feed movement. Ashby also does not teach any piece of material, much less an additional piece other than the pieces 88, having contours that *correspond to the outer contours of the rim hole*, as set forth in Applicant's claim 1. The rim hole as recited in claim 1 is shown as rim hole 9 in FIGs. 4 and 10. The additional broken out piece 10 is shown as having essentially the same size and contour, also as recited in claim 1.

The broken out piece of material 10, in relation to the outer contours of the rim hole 9, prevents the rear work piece 2 from folding over. This further step enables the curling back of only material of the upper plate shaped workpiece. In other words, breaking out an additional piece of material 10 of the rear plate shaped workpiece 2 by supporting the punch by a matrix 8 such that the outer contours of the piece of material corresponds to the outer contours of the rim hole 9 ensures that the rear plate shaped workpiece will not be folded over. This is because after the punch, the rear plate shaped workpiece already has its final shape.

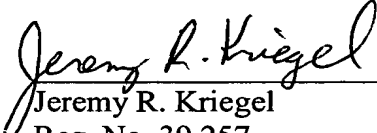
Ashby only discloses producing a rim hole whose transverse section is formed by material of both the upper workpiece 82 and the rear workpiece 84. The only broken out portions 88 in Ashby have a much smaller size and contour than the rim hole. Ashby does not disclose the step of breaking out the additional piece of material subsequently creating the penetrating opening through the stack. Inasmuch as Ashby fails to disclose all that is set forth in claim 1, the Applicant's claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom should be considered patentable over Ashby.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are patentable over Ashby, and the Examiner's reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested. If

the Examiner has any questions that might easily be resolved by telephone, he is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (312) 474-6300.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 31, 2002

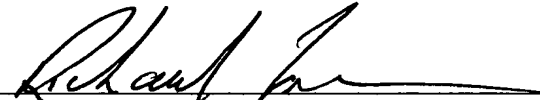

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Richard Zimmerman